

REMARKS

The above-referenced application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Office Action dated September 9, 2004 (hereafter "the Office Action"). Claims 1-5, 7-10, 15, and 17-19 have been amended, and claims 6, 11, and 16 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Therefore, claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-15, and 17-19 are currently pending in this application. The Examiner's reconsideration of the objections and rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action §1, the specification is objected to for various informalities. Applicants have amended the specification in each instance as suggested by the Examiner, with one exception. The Examiner states that on page 9: in line 10, "Since" apparently should be "Since a". Applicants would be happy to cure any grammatical errors that exist, but believes that in this instance, the grammar is currently correct. Applicant believes the sentence "Since Reed-Solomon is a systematic code ..." reads correctly as is and that inserting the word "a" in front of "Reed-Solomon" would corrupt the grammar, not correct it; since "Reed-Solomon" in this case is used as a collective reference to Reed Solomon coding and not a specific reference to a particular Reed-Solomon encoder. Applicants believe the Examiner's objections have been overcome and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action §2, various claims are objected to for informalities. Applicants have amended the specification in each instance as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants believe the Examiner's objections have been overcome and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action §§3-4, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 and 15-19 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended the specification in each instance as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants believe the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action §§5-6, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,099,482 to Cameron (hereafter "Cameron"), and in Office Action §§7-8, the Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3, 10, and 15 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron. In light of the amendments

made to independent claims 1, 10, and 15 (discussed below), applicants believe the rejection is now moot and therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider.

In the Office Action §§9-10, the Examiner has indicated that claims 6-9, 11-14, and 16-19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph set forth in the Office Action and include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 6 (which the Examiner has indicated includes allowable subject matter), therefore Applicants believe that claim 1 is now allowable.

Since claims 2-9 depend directly from and include each of the limitations of claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 2-9 are also allowable.

Claim 10 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 11 (which the Examiner has indicated includes allowable subject matter), therefore Applicants believe that claim 10 is now allowable.

Since claims 11-14 depend directly from and include each of the limitations of claim 10, Applicants submit that claims 11-14 are also allowable.

Claim 15 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claim 16 (which the Examiner has indicated includes allowable subject matter), therefore Applicants believe that claim 15 is now allowable.

Since claims 16-19 depend directly from and include each of the limitations of claim 15, Applicants submit that claims 16-19 are also allowable.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's objections and rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6807, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

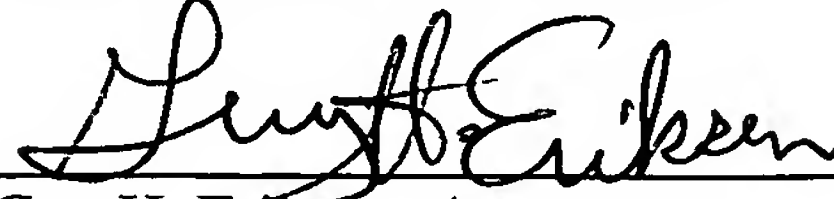
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Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2004

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PU020003

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to
Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

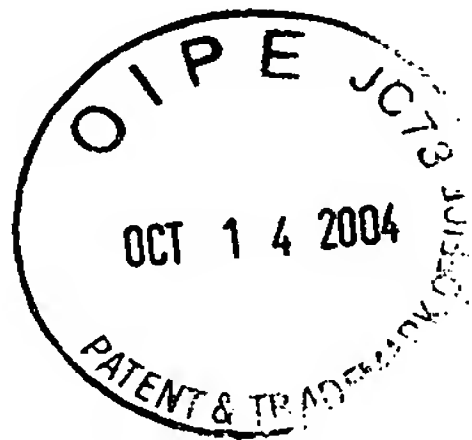
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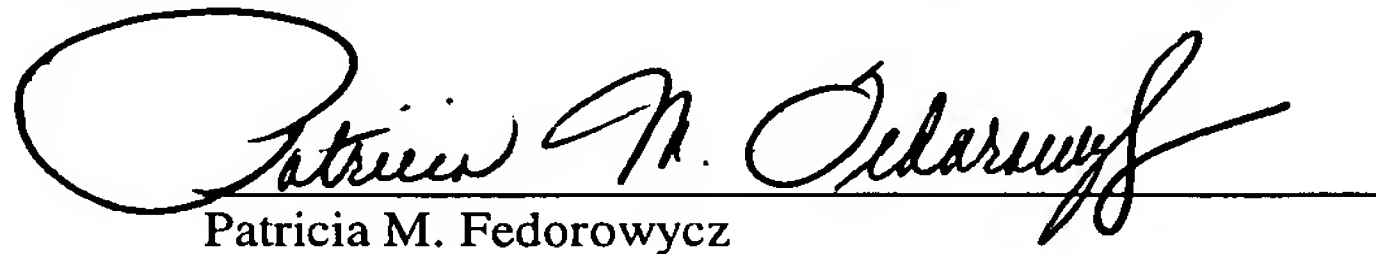
October 12, 2004



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I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

October 12, 2004
Date


Patricia M. Fedorowycz